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The Case of divers

~~WINE MERCHANTS~~

*Freemen of the City of LONDON, exercising
the Trade of Retailing W I N E S.*

THAT by Ancient Custom and Usage, every Freeman of the said City, might exercise what Trade he thought best for his Livelihood, which Custom, and all other Customs of the said City, have been from time to time confirmed, not only by several Charters of the Kings and Queens of this Realm, but also by *Magna Charta*, and other Acts of Parliament.

That the Persons above mentioned, have ever enjoyed the benefit of the said Customs, Charters and Acts of Parliament, until of late they have been molested by Informations in His Majesties Courts at *Westminster*, upon the Statutes of 7 *Edm.* 6. & 12th. of His Majesties Reign, although the former Act was never put in Execution against them, or other Freemen heretofore in their condition, but the Penalties thereof dispensed withall, by the Charters and Grants of His Majesties Predecessors.

That the said ~~Persons~~ Freemen (although not free of the Company of Vintners) have all of them served their time to Persons exercising the said Trade, and by reason thereof are unskilful in any other Mystery; and if (contrary to the said Customs, &c.) they should be deprived of exercising the said Trade, they and their Families must be ruined, having no other way of Livelihood.

That several Persons free of the Company of Vintners, do at this time exercise other Trades within the said City, without let or molestation.

That it is humbly conceived, That the Parliament never intended to exclude the ~~said Freemen~~ out of the Proviso in the said Act of the 12th. of His Majesties Reign, made in favour of the Vintners; but that they should be comprehended therein, and their Rights and Priviledges thereby conserved.

July 1703.